

## MAJOR NATOMAS-AREA LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETE BY YEAR'S END

By the end of the 2010 construction season, \$197 million in flood protection investments made by California voters in 2006 will have helped improve 42 miles of Sacramento levees and 16 miles of canals under the Natomas Levee Improvement Program (NLIP). The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) launched the NLIP in 2006 to provide the Natomas Basin with 200-year flood protection and remove the area's Federal Emergency Management Agency "high risk" zone designation. The 83-square-mile basin is surrounded by levees on the Sacramento River to the west, the Natomas Cross Canal (NCC) on the north, Pleasant Grove Creek Canal and Natomas East Main Drainage Canal on the east, and the American River to the south.



SAFCA contractors on the Natomas Levee Improvement Program remove a tree to be relocated in a nearby designated planting area along the Sacramento River's east levee.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) administers state investments in the NLIP through the Early Implementation Program (EIP). The EIP provides funding from the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) and Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1E) bond sales for construction-ready projects to improve parts of the State Plan of Flood Control for

the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. The state contributes approximately 70 percent of the total cost for each EIP project. There are no federal funds dedicated for these

projects currently, but SAFCA has applied for Section 104 credits from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), which would reduce both SAFCA and DWR's combined total outlay to approximately 35 percent.

Four major project phases make up the NLIP to be completed by DWR and SAFCA. Phase 1, completed by SAFCA in 2010, consisted primarily of improvements to the westernmost section of the NCC south levee from the Sacramento River on the west to just east of Highway 99. Phases 2 to 4, anticipated to be complete by year's end, include about 14 miles of improvements to the east side of the Sacramento River. SAFCA's construction on the Sacramento River east levee and the adjacent Riverside Canal will end just north of the American River.

If Congress authorizes federal participation in the program in 2010, the USACE will construct the remaining levee improvements along the southern and eastern portions of the Natomas Basin with a goal of starting construction in 2012.

Sacramento City and County, Sutter County, the American River Flood Control District, and Reclamation District 1000 formed SAFCA as a joint-powers agency in 1989 to provide the region increased flood protection along the Sacramento and American rivers.

Further information about the NLIP is available at [http://www.safca.org/Programs\\_Natomas.html](http://www.safca.org/Programs_Natomas.html).

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### Vision:

*A sustainable integrated flood management and emergency response system throughout California that improves public safety, protects and enhances environmental and cultural resources, and supports economic growth by reducing the probability of destructive floods, promoting beneficial floodplain processes, and lowering the damages caused by flooding.*

## USACE Models Simulate Flood Flow Routing in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has nearly completed a central component of the work needed to estimate the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley's flood risk: flood routing models of major river and stream channel networks. As well as being critical tools for preparing the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and supporting other FloodSAFE efforts, these models will allow floodplain managers to simulate historic and rare flood events and their effects.

Initially, the study will model two conditions: (1) unregulated flow, which does not include reservoirs, levees, or other flood control facilities; and (2) regulated flow, which includes such facilities. Hydrographs and flow frequency curves under both conditions will be developed for 200 locations throughout the valley. The next phase of the study will consider the uncertainties of climate change.

The study's final results and tools are anticipated for release to partner agencies and the public in 2011. For additional information, e-mail Mitch Russo at [mrusso@water.ca.gov](mailto:mrusso@water.ca.gov) or Jon Ericson at [jericson@water.ca.gov](mailto:jericson@water.ca.gov).

## Preseason Flood Coordination Meetings Scheduled for September and November

Water managers, flood emergency responders, and managers who coordinate flood emergency preparedness and response are invited to a series of preseason flood coordination meetings this fall (see "Calendar," page 3). DWR's Flood Operations Center, and its local, state, and federal partners, will provide an overview of current and projected weather; water conditions; DWR flood preparedness and emergency response activities; flood fight methods; and other related topics. For more information about the meetings, including meeting times and addresses, contact Wendy Stewart at [wstewart@water.ca.gov](mailto:wstewart@water.ca.gov) or (916) 574-2619.

## Flood Protection Plan Workshops Resume August 24

Four workshops to review potential management actions for inclusion in the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) are scheduled from August 24 through September 2 in Sacramento (see "Calendar," page 3). CVFPP work group members, partner agencies, members of the public, and other stakeholders are invited to participate in these discussions. A management action is a single, specific structural or nonstructural strategy, action, or tactic that state, federal, or local agencies could consider in helping to improve flood risk management in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. They also contribute to one or more of CVFPP goals and address the flood management problems and opportunities identified by work groups during the first phase of plan development.

Three 4-hour workshops will focus on identifying how initial management actions can be applied in different settings: small communities, agricultural or rural communities, and urban-area communities. One 6-hour workshop is dedicated to discovering opportunities to integrate environmental, water supply, and other benefits in the initial management actions. DWR held a first round of workshops in July to review, and add to, distinct categories of initial management actions.

The workshops will be held at MWH, 3321 Power Inn Road, Suite 300, Sacramento. For more information, please visit [www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp/](http://www.water.ca.gov/cvfmp/).



DWR's preseason flood meetings will include topics such as the use of flood fight methods and materials, like the sandbags shown above.

A **hydrograph** is a graph showing changes in the rate at which water flows over a period of time. Flow or flood **frequency curves** depict how frequently a flood of a given magnitude will occur based on the rate and volume of flow in a channel.

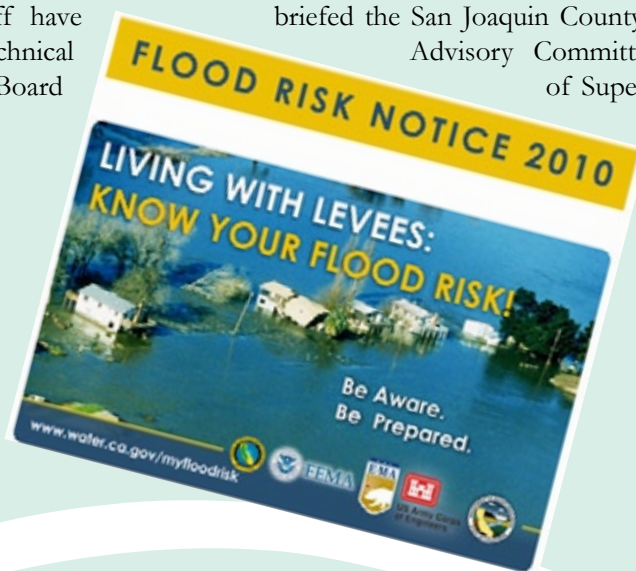
## Fall 2010 Flood Risk Mailers Kick Off Annual Notification Process

This fall, hundreds of thousands of Californians will have more information about the flood risks they may face from streams and rivers near their homes and businesses. As part of the new Flood Risk Notification (FRN) Program, DWR will mail more than 350,000 notices to Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley property owners whose parcels are located in Levee Flood Protection Zones (LFPZs). LFPZs are the areas that receive protection from the facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control. DWR delineated these areas by estimating the maximum area that may be flooded if state-federal project levees fail when flows in the channel are at the maximum capacity that may reasonably be conveyed.

The notice informs recipients of their property's potential flood risks and potential sources of flooding, and suggests flood emergency planning and preparedness tips. It encourages recipients to take preventative actions such as purchasing flood insurance, elevating or "floodproofing" their buildings, and preventing blockage of channels, drains, and ditches. When notification begins, DWR will also launch an FRN website offering additional flood risk-related information and an interactive LFPZ map viewer.

FRN program staff conducted three focus groups in Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yuba counties to test the readability of the draft flood risk notice from the perspective of the program's target audience: single-family residential property owners.

Additionally, DWR held eight outreach meetings with local agencies and organizations from Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Lake, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties. The meetings provided an overview of the FRN program and a discussion about program requirements mandated by the California Water Code, current and future program activities and opportunities for partnerships. In addition to these outreach meetings, FRN program staff have briefed the San Joaquin County Flood Management Technical Advisory Committee and the Sutter County Board of Supervisors.



To learn more about the Flood Risk Notification Program, please visit [http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/trafmo/fmb/jes/levee\\_protection\\_zones.cfm](http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/trafmo/fmb/jes/levee_protection_zones.cfm). LFPZ maps are available electronically as PDFs at <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/trafmo/fmb/jas/risknotification>.

## Calendar

**Aug. 24** – CVFPP Management Actions Small Communities Workshop, 9:00 a.m., Sacramento

**Aug. 26** – CVFPP Management Actions Benefits Integration Workshop, 9:00 a.m., Sacramento

**Aug. 31** – CVFPP Management Actions Agricultural and Rural Communities Workshop, 1:00 p.m., Sacramento

**Sept. 2** – CVFPP Management Actions Urban Area Communities Workshop, 9:00 a.m., Sacramento

**Sept. 13** – Cost-Sharing Formulas Workshop, 9:00 a.m., Sacramento

**Sept. 14** – Cost-Sharing Formulas Workshop, 1:00 p.m., Stockton

**Sept. 15-16** – FEMA Watershed University, Redding

**Sept. 20** – Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, Stockton

**Sept. 21** – Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, Yuba City

**Sept. 23** – Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, San Jose

**Sept. 27** – Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, Sacramento

**Sept. 28** – Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, Ventura County

**Sept. 29** – Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, Riverside County

**Nov.** – Preseason Flood Coordination Meeting, Eureka

<http://water.ca.gov/calendar>



## Public Review Needed on Proposed Cost-Sharing Formulas for Flood Management Projects

DWR has proposed new formulas to determine how the state and its local partners will share the costs of flood management projects using funds made available by Propositions 1E and 84. Before finalizing the cost-sharing formulas, DWR will hold two public workshops on September 13 and 14, 2010, to solicit comments and answer questions on the proposed guidelines.

DWR has historically used cost-sharing formulas for many of the programs in which it provides financial assistance to local agencies for flood management work. Assembly Bill 5, California Water Code Section 9625, requires DWR to establish cost-sharing formulas for funding provided by Propositions 1E and 84 for repairs or improvements of facilities included in the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. At this time the cost-sharing formulas will apply to Early Implementation Program and Levee Repair Program projects. Once finalized, they will be reflected in future guideline revisions for DWR flood programs. DWR does not intend to modify existing agreements. Other DWR programs may be affected in the future as their implementing guidelines or regulations are updated.

Similar to the state share required in the existing 2008 cost-sharing guidelines, the state will fund at least half of each project's total cost under these new proposed formulas. This initial share can rise by an additional 20 percent for eligible projects that contribute to achieving habitat, open space, recreation, and state infrastructure goals. Projects that improve flood management in economically disadvantaged areas are eligible for an even greater state share—up to 90 percent of the total project cost. In all cases, local agencies are required to contribute a minimum of 10 percent toward the total project cost.

To participate in the review and comment process to finalize these cost-sharing formulas, please visit the FloodSAFE website at <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodsafe>.



*DWR uses cost-sharing formulas to determine how much money the state may be able to contribute to the cost of local flood projects, such as SAFCA's levee improvements to the Natomas Cross Canal, shown above, under the Natomas Levee Improvement Program (see related story, page 1).*

*A periodic newsletter highlighting the progress to produce the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan  
and the related FloodSAFE efforts within the Department of Water Resources*



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